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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole which comprises keeping hydrated crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole at about 20 to about 100°C for a time sufficient to produce the amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole.

24. (Original) The process for producing an amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole according to claim 23, which comprises heating at about 40 to about 80°C.

25. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 23, wherein the hydrated crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole are in the form of 0.5 to 1.5 hydrate crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole and are ~~is~~ heated at about 50 to about 70°C.

26. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 23, wherein the keeping of the hydrated crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole ~~the temperature~~ is carried out under reduced pressure or under ventilation.

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